(a) whether Government are aware of the Judgement of the Supreme Court (vide W.P. (c) Nos. 2275-86 of 1982) directing that the employees of the statutory canteens in the railways be treated as Railway employees with effect from 22nd October, 1980;

(b) if so, whether Railway and Defence ministries have implemented the Supreme Court directive in respect of their employees in the statutory canteens in their respective ministries;

(c) whether the employees of the statutory canteen in the Department of Atomic Energy particularly in the MAPS Canteen at Kalpakkam at Madras, have been representing for treating them as Central Government employees with effect from 22nd October, 1980; and

(d) if so, the action proposed to be taken to implement the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) Representations have been received in 1982 regarding treating employees working in the Canteen at the Madras Atomic Power Project as Government servants in the light of a judgement of the Supreme Court dated 11.10.91 which refers to canteens attached to Central Government Offices. The Canteen at Madras Atomic Power Station (MAPS) is attached to a Public Sector Enterprise namely Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd. (NPCIL) which was formed in 1987 i.e. prior to the judgement of 11.10.91 of Supreme Court. Hence, terms of employment of the canteen workers at the MAPS are regulated by the NPCIL. Further the matter relating to the status of Madras Atomic Power Station and Rajasthan Atomic Power Station canteen employees is before the Madras High Court and Central Administrative Tribunal, Jodhpur Bench respectively.

''ई सी'' टी. वी. के सेवा-केन्द्रों के अत्यधिक प्रभार

3059. श्री अजीत जोगी: क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या ''ई सी'' टी. वी. के सेवा-केन्द्र अपने यहां ठेके पर कार्य करने वाले इंजीनियरों को भुगतान की जाने वाली राशि की तुलना में अपने ग्राहकों से सेवा प्रभारों के रूप में दुगनी राशि वसूल कर रहे हैं;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं; और

(ग) सेवा-केन्द्रों द्वारा ग्राहकों से उतनी ही राशि वसूल करने के लिए जितनी राशि वास्तव में उनके इंजीनियरों को दी जाती है, क्या क्या कदम उठाये गये हैं?

प्रधान मंत्री कार्यालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री भुवनेश चतुर्वेदी): (क) और (ख) जी, नहीं। ग्राहकों से लिए जाने वाले प्रभारों में न केवल ठेके पर काम करने वाले इंजीनियरों को किया जाने वाला भुगतान शामिल है बल्कि तुरंत सेवाएं सुनिश्चित करने के लिए देश के विभिन्न भागों में स्थित सेवा केन्द्रों के अनुरक्षण के लिए कम्पनी द्वारा किए जाने वाले खर्च को पूरा करना भी शामिल है।

(ग) यह प्रश्न ही नहीं उठता।

Serious Accidents in DAE Nuclear Facilities

3060. SHRI SOM PAL:
SHRI SARDA MOHANTY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to an article published in ""The Pioneer" of 22nd April, 1994 to the effect that an estimated 200 accidents of a serious nature occurred in the nuclear facilities under Department of Atomic Energy;

(b) if so, what is the exact number of accidents; and

(c) the number of worker killed and/or hospitalized since the first Indian research reactor Apsra was commissioned in 1956?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The severity of events in nuclear plants is classified on a scale of 1 to 7. The upper levels of 4 to 7 are for events considered to be accidents. The accidents at Chernobyl nuclear power station was rated at level 7. The lower levels 1 to 3 are for less severe events which fall in the category of incidents. Events which have no safety significance are classified at level and are termed deviations. As per this

internationally accepted convention, no accidents have occurred in the Indian Nuclear Power Plants.

(c) While, as mentioned above, there have been no radiation related accidents, the total number of deaths due to industrial accidents among regular workers from all the nuclear plants and facilities was 56 during the thirty-one year period from 1963—1993. None of the deaths was in any way related to radiation exposure or radioactive releases. These deaths were from among workers in nuclear power plants, uranium mine, mill, fuel fabrication facilities and heavy water plants located at different sites in the country. The data from 1956 to 1962 are not available.

The number of fatalities from among the contract workers for the sixteen year period from 1978—1993 is 73. These deaths are also in no way related to radiation exposure or radioactive releases.

In general the fatalities were due to fall from height injury due to getting hit by objects, burns, electric shock asphyxiation, etc.

Indian Drugs

3061. SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian drugs are the cheapest in the world, if so, what is the price of Indian Life Saving Drugs comparable to that of developed countries including the USA;

(b) whether in the past Government was opposed to patenting the drugs, plants and seeds, if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number and percentage of drugs under controlled price when the prices were fixed last, what was the margin of profit permitted to manufacturers at that time and whether input cost have gone up, if so, how much: and

(d) whether the price control is being flouted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO):(a). No such international comparison has been made by the Governments. -

(b) The grant of patents are governed by the provisions of the Patent Act 1970.

(c) and (d) The details are contained in the Drugs (Prices Control) Order 1987 (DPCO). The fixation/revision of prices is governed by the provisions of (he DPCO. In cases involving violation of the DPCO, appropriate action is taken by the concerned State Government under Section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act.

Expenditure of Department of Fertilizers

3062. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been heavy expenditure on items like office espenses, overtime allowance, travelling expenses, consumption of petrol/fuel ete. in the Ministry, Public Sector Undertakings and other organisations under the administrative control of the Department of Fertilizers;

(b) if so, the details thereof during each of the last three years, under office expenses, overtime allowance, travelling expenses, consumption of petrol/fuel giving separate figures-office/PSU/ organisationwise; and

(c) the steps taken to effect economy measures?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The expenditure has remained within budgetary limits. Instructions have been issued by the Government to restrict expenditure on items such as entertainment, consumption of petrol/ diesel, electricity, overtime allowance, telephone and travelling. These are being adhered to by the Ministry and the PSUs/ organisations under the administrative control of the Department of Fertilizers.